

May 2020

online edition

The Grapevine

your community news

Colton, Easton
& Marlingford

The Parishes of Easton, Colton, Marlingford & Bawburgh

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garry.goodman@btinternet.com

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The Grapevine

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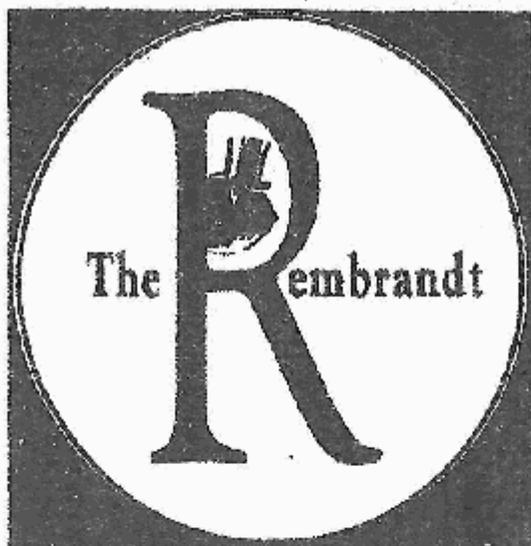
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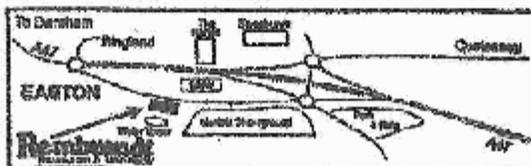


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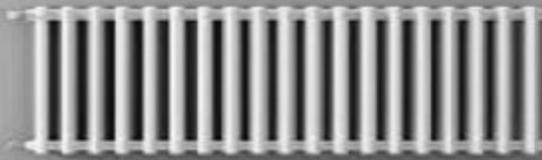
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The Rambling Vine

In the Church year, we are still in the season of Easter. It is a time where we particularly think about those first apostles and how they turned from a group of fearful people into those who spread the gospel into the known world - quite the transformation!

We started the journey the week after Easter with the disciples in a place of fear. The disciples were gathered in the upper room – a bit like us at the moment, they were locked in because they were afraid of what might happen to them if they went out. And yet, it is likely that the women who had seen the empty tomb and especially Mary who had seen the resurrected Jesus were there with them. It is likely these women carried with them a sense of hope too.

Jesus came to that group and stood among them and said ‘Peace be with you’ – he came to be with them in their fear to show them the truth of his resurrection, and to offer a chance of hope and forgiveness... and peace.

But one disciple, Thomas, was not with them, we are not told why. Had Thomas gone out for essential supplies for the group? Was he taking his daily exercise? We don’t know. I often feel sorry for Thomas, ‘doubting Thomas’ as he has come to be called.

Imagine how he must have felt when he returned – having possibly risked his life to go out – only to come back and to find that he had missed out on the most incredible experience of all, seeing the risen Jesus. We don’t know why he didn’t believe his friends - may be he thought they had dreamed up an elaborate joke whilst he had been out. May be he was just so upset at missing out and being left out of the situation that he just didn’t want



to believe it. We'll never know. Whatever it was that Thomas felt or why, what we do know is that Jesus came back again to that locked home especially to meet with him.

I don't know how you are feeling in the middle of this 'lockdown'.

Are you like the women: are you feeling positive? Hopeful even?

Are you like the disciples: are you afraid? If not for yourself then for friends or family?

Are you like Thomas: upset, confused, feeling lonely or left out?

However you are feeling, Jesus meets with you in your own locked home and says 'Peace be with you'. In the midst of their fear Jesus appeared to those first followers bringing peace to them. Jesus is with us now in the midst of our own fears.

Rev Laura Montgomery

A Good Friday for me!

I had prepared enough material to spend the Last Hour of Devotion of the Cross. I wasn't fully aware that all churches were locked, the last I had heard, private devotions were possible. I went to the churchyard and decided to sit on the welcome bench outside in the sun. I had my Bible, hymn book and the material from Rev. Laura, plus Leprosy Mission Lent material.

I was fully occupied for well over the Last Hour and sang two hymns in my worship time. It was so peaceful and meaningful for me, and brought back a memory of a few years ago when I was travelling in New Zealand and could not get to a church during the afternoon but had managed a morning service. I could not possibly drive through the whole three hours without pausing for the Last Hour. I managed to find a retreat with seats, but there were people around enjoying their time in the sun. I followed a path towards a lake and found a resting place where I read the Gospel and devoted my time and thoughts to my Saviour on the Cross.

I hope others have found opportunities to read the Bible and have time for devotions during this period of concern for those affected by the virus. Stay well everybody!

Fred Creed

News from St Andrew's, Colton

How Church and community life have changed! It was a sad moment when I had to lock the Church for the foreseeable future. Apart from when we locked during building projects the Church has not been closed for as long as I can remember. But, like all the lanes around Colton, the blossom and Spring flowers in the Churchyard look spectacular - what a wonderful display we are having. The beautiful weather has been such a bonus during this otherwise challenging time. Thank you to those on our rota who have continued to mow and maintain the Churchyard.



For those who are new to the village, there is a wooden seat on the south side of the Church, given in memory of Margaret Watts, Dudley's wife, who did so much research on the history of St Andrew's. It is a lovely place to sit and reflect on the beauty of nature and the joy of living in Colton.

I have not seen what else has been written for this edition but I am sure others will have mentioned how our communities are supporting each other. I have enjoyed chats (at a 2m distance!) with people in the village, and would like to remind everyone that members of the Church are happy to help in anyway they can. We are especially concerned that there may be people feeling isolated and yet unknown to any of us. I have had offers from those happy to deliver food parcels if we can be told names.

We have also started a village WhatsApp group - **'Colton keeping in contact'** - please let me know if you would like to join.

Liz Plater
Tel: 07775 088190
Secretary, St Andrew's Church, Colton

Beat News

Safer Neighbourhood Team

My role as a Beat Manager has changed and adapted in order to support our front line colleagues and therefore I have had minimal interactions with my communities. We continue to respond to community problems as normal but we have to risk assess our roles and activities.

I am pleased to announce crime within the area remain minimal.

I have been patrolling on Police Bicycles recently and will continue to do so as it's a great way of seeing the community in a safe way and being as visible as possible. We continue to monitor breaches of the Covid-19 rules and regulations and we urge anyone who observes any breaches to contact the Police where we will take action.

*PC 499 Stu Barnard
Costessey Beat Manager
Tel: 101 ext 2951*

EASTON CHURCH QUIZ 70- SPORT TROPHIES

There were three returns with same total of four incorrect answers. As I could not have a witnessed draw I have contacted those concerned and it has been agreed to donate the £10 Prize to the N.H. Trust Appeal. Thank you to Peter and Viv Pease; Maureen Colema; Bev Fitzgerald-Lombard.

I can send a result sheet to any one if you contact me on **fredcreed@gmail.com** or **01603 742566**.

Thanks to all who regularly support the quiz. The next one will be post-virus.

Fred Creed

Marlingford & Colton Parish Council

www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Welcome to the Marlingford and Colton Parish Council section of Grapevine.

Coronavirus support and information

During this uncertain time there is help and support needed for residents. There are groups in both villages offering support to those that they are aware need it. If you require support but not yet receiving it South Norfolk's Early Help Hub (EHH) are able to offer help in a number of areas.

If you are in need of support or cannot access essential items, please contact the dedicated helpline on **01508 533933**, Monday to Friday 08:15 - 17:00 and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 - 16:00.

Norfolk County Council also have a dedicated Coronavirus helpline for vulnerable residents, 0344 8008020, Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00 and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 - 16:00.

If you are a resident and need financial support please call the EHH on 01508 533933, Monday to Friday 08:15 - 17:00.

Business Support Grants are also available for South Norfolk Residents, for support, call 01508 500670, Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

Fly Tipping

There have been a number of instances of fly tipping recently. All of these have been reported to South Norfolk District Council. With recycling centres currently shut it is possible there will be more occurrences. Residents are urged to report it to SNDC on

www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/neighbourhood-issues/street-cleaning-fly-tipping-and-litter/report-fly-tipping-or

Dog Waste bin - update

The parish council have now purchased an additional dog waste bin to be situated in Colton at the entrance to the footpath into the woods on Marlingford Road. This bin will be installed as soon as it is safe to do so and waste collections will then be commenced.

Colton Amenity Area

Colton Amenity Area, which comprises of a playground and small carpark, has been leased by the parish council since 2002. Since 2006 both the parish council and the village hall committee have been able to apply for a number of grants to improve this area for the community. There is now less than 2 years left on this lease which means we are ineligible to apply for most grants. Despite attempts to enter into discussions with the landowner to extend this lease we have not had any response. This brings with it uncertainty about the future of the play area that the Parish Council will continue to try to resolve.

Parish Council & South Norfolk Council Services

The parish council is currently operating business as usual and be contacted on the details below. SNDC are restricting access to essential visits only but can be contacted by phone, email or through their website. An update on their services can be found at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-information/service-updates

Next Parish Council Meeting

The Parish AGM and Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th May at 7pm virtually. Members of the public who would like to contribute are asked to contact the clerk by 12 noon on Tuesday 12th May.

Maria Hutson,
Clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council,
telephone: 07759 534885
email: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com
website: marlingfordandcoltonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

RNLI

Hoping to get out to the beach before the end of summer? RNLI have free educational safety resources on their website:
<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources> .



Colour Stormy Stan



Julian of Norwich

Introduction by *Felicity Maton*: On 8th May 1373 a woman fell seriously ill with a life-threatening illness, just as many people are now. She survived and wrote a book about the visions she experienced as she nearly died. The words she wrote have survived and we are hearing them today:

“God did not say ‘You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be work-weary, you shall not be discomforted’ but he said ‘You shall not be overcome’.”

A Window on the World

Three years of longing and waiting. I often wondered if I might live long enough to see this day. The Lord clothed me with such a wonderful calmness as my Lord Bishop read me my last rites. I who was, am now dead to the world. I have no name, save that of ‘Julian’, taken from this church. I shall reside here till the end of my days. As I witness every flint being placed, I thank God that he has honoured me by calling me to his service.

I draw all my courage and strength from God. In Him I have such faith, an overwhelming conviction that I am doing His will. The ‘shewings’ I received during my illness, when I was so close to death, are still as vivid as they were then. There is so much that I still need to learn and understand about these visions. I need solitude to pray and seek understanding.

People think that I am giving up everything in life when in fact, through the very act of becoming an anchoress, I am receiving everything I could ever desire. The Lord will be my companion and I need no other. In this cell, I shall not be imprisoned but set free. I am gaining the freedom to be with God, to be open to his message.

Another row of stones completed. Soon the doorway through which I entered this cell will no longer exist. The cell will be complete and at last I will be whole. I long for that moment when the labourers depart and I can be alone with God. I will have to learn to listen to God in the silence, to hear Him and understand Him. I do not see this Anchorhold as isolating myself from the world. That is the choice of a hermit. As an anchoress I have a role which, if I was without God, I would certainly find most daunting.

In the walls of this cell there are, as is the custom, three windows. The first window is to the adjoining room where my maid will reside. She will be on hand to supply my daily needs. There are rules for an anchoress, to which I must keep, concerning how I live my life and what I eat. I readily accept these as time is precious and they free me from the need to make mundane decisions.

The second window is to the church. As I peep through it now, I have a perfect view of the altar. I shall be closer to the priest as he celebrates the Holy Mysteries of the Mass, than ever before. Above the altar I can see the Tabernacle and a lamp marking Christ's presence in the Blessed Sacrament. I can look upon the Lord at any time of day or night. At every Mass that is celebrated in this church, I shall be present. I know that the Lord is always close by me. He is my strength and my protection. I have nothing to fear.

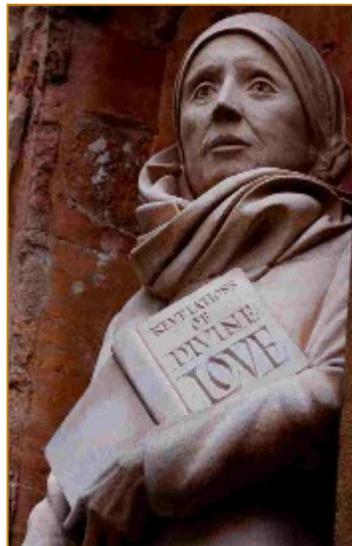


Image by rocketjohn - Julian of Norwich, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=13553020>

The third window is to the world. I will welcome people and with my Lord's generous guidance, speak with them, passing on the message of God's amazing love. In these turbulent times, people are desperate for love, hope and peace in their

troubled lives. God wishes me to tell these, my 'even Christians', that he is God of Love. In Him I see no anger. In God the people can find comfort, hope and joy. Visiting me at this window, I hope people will start to understand why I have chosen to be an anchoress. I am anchored to the church but for my 'even Christians', I am an 'anchor' stopping their ship from being swept out into the rough seas of destruction. This anchorhold is here to hold tight the people of Norwich to God. My life, as it once was, is finished. Only through constant prayer and openness to God, can I have the strength to tell of His unconditional, endless love. God has bidden me to tell what He revealed through my Shewings and I shall write an account of them.

My ordeal is over. The last flint is being wedged into place. The men have remained silent throughout their work, affording reverence as if covering a grave. The ringing of trowels on stone has mercifully ceased and now a procession of footsteps fades into the distance. I bid you farewell as I draw my curtain on the world for today and sink to my knees in thankful prayer and praise.

Shirley Buxton

In Memoriam: Russell Woods

We are sad to report that Russell died on 20th March, shortly before his 84th birthday. He had lived in Easton since 1960, having moved there with his parents.

Russell was a church-goer and active in the life of the village, including 15 years as a volunteer driver. He is survived by his sister Valerie Oswick, his nephew Martin and family, and our thoughts are with them.

It is hoped that a memorial service will be held at Easton Church later in the year.

Easton Parish Council

www.eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Welcome to news from Easton Parish Council.

The Easton Community Emergency Plan operating through Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council is now activated. Hopefully everyone in the Village has received important Parish Council information by way of 2 postcards that have been put through each letterbox. Many thanks to the helpers who have given up their time and made this possible. A big thank you too, to the Easton Support Network for all their hard work keeping people connected during these difficult times, and for maintaining and contributing to the Easton Support Network facebook page.

If you need help of any kind you can call either of these two County and District Council helpline numbers manned 24 hours a day: **0344 8008020 or 01508 533933**.

At a local level the Emergency plan links volunteers able to offer their time with the resources needed to offer basic help to those who are at risk and without the support of other friends and family. For example, general assistance could take the form of shopping, collecting medicines, posting letters or walking a dog, for people who are at risk, self-isolating and living alone.

For the plan to work we need volunteers and the services they can offer. If you would like to be added to this database of helpers, please contact either myself, or **Mike Jobling** on: **07904 975676** or **mike.jobling@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk**.

As well as instructions and identifying stickers when volunteering, Doorstep Helpers are given protective gloves to offer a measure of safeguarding.

Playgrounds:

Playgrounds and all play equipment sadly cannot be used until further notice. As soon as government restrictions are lifted the Parish Council will communicate this to all residents.

Allotments:

As you are aware the situation has changed regarding how much time we are to spend outside and where we can visit. **The allotments are all currently open and will remain so until we are advised otherwise. Travel to and from the allotments is permitted if due precautions are taken. Visiting the site constitutes your daily exercise set out by the government.**

However, any plot-holder who is self-isolating because a household member is ill with coronavirus should not be visiting the site.

Trespass on private land:

Please can people be reminded that the land on Dereham Road is not public land for recreational use and as such anyone caught using this land will be referred to the police under the Coronavirus Act 2020 for the protection of public health, trespassers will also be prosecuted though the civil courts. There are five main summary offences created by the legislation. These offences are punishable on summary conviction (magistrates' court) by a fine not exceeding £1,000. A person commits an offence if they:

- fail without reasonable excuse to comply with any direction, reasonable instruction, requirement or restriction
- abscond, or attempt to abscond, while being removed to or kept at a place of detention or isolation
- knowingly provide false or misleading information in response to a requirement to provide information
- obstruct a person who is exercising or attempting to exercise a power
- fail without reasonable excuse to ensure that a child they have responsibility for complies with any direction, instruction, requirement or restriction given to or imposed on the child, or to provide such information and assistance in relation to the child as is reasonably necessary and practicable in the circumstances.

Continued.../

... continued

Council meetings:

Easton Parish Council will now be holding virtual meetings on the first Monday of every month online via Zoom - the next meeting is due to be held on Mon 4th May at 7.30pm. Please see the parish council website to obtain details for logging in to view or participate in the meeting.

Take care and be safe.

*Francis Woodcock, Easton Parish Clerk
Flat 2 Kimberley Hall, Barnham Broom Road, Wymondham
Email: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk Tel 07879 379181*

Lockdown in my Garden

The silence is golden, with no planes in the sky,
I can hear nature now, as it passes me by.
Not able to socialize, nor able to shop,
My life as I knew it, has come to a stop.

But - I have watched the bare branches bud, leaf and then flower,
The bird song is loud, as they sing with more power.
As I sit on the patio, with a hot cup of tea,
The wind in the poplar tree sounds just like the sea.
Does anyone else think like that, or is it just me?

The cockerel nearby crows out at dawn,
To herald the start of another Spring morn.
George, the guinea fowl visits each day,
to wander about and in grass to lay.
Quail, pheasant and squirrel also pop by,
And there's deer in the field, and a kite in the sky.

This earth that we've lived on for a very long time
Is saying STOP, listen, slow down now,
And you will be fine.

Keep safe everyone!

Susan Stubbs

A Window of Hope

(for Easton Benefice)

The door's firm closed
Fast, thou mayn't go in. Reposed,
It's barred and locked today,
So what and where to go to pray.

Why, in your bed or on the stair,
Where e'er you are, He'll be there
While you're walking in the wood
Or by sea strand, where e'er you're stood.

He's there in your heart,
In cakes fresh baked, or golden tarte.
He's with the birds up in the trees
Simply shout out loud, puts you at ease.

Whether Easton by the college
Or Colton aft' footed pilgrimage,
Queen o' Hills, Yare waters Marlingford,
Or on its bank by Bawburgh's ford.

Rest assured, the door's not closed.
Come, flock together under skies
Blue, azure, rainbowed Window wide with Hope,
Bringing joyous message to all who mope.

Go out and shout, sing and praise,
Raise up your voice in fine arrays.
The walls spread wide, the roof is high
The door's not locked, the stone's rolled by.
Make joyous chorus reach the sky,
Let all know of our praising cry.

Colin Rymill

Easton Good Companions

I hope all the members of the Club are keeping well. When we get together again it would be good to arrange a good old **knees-up** like after the war. I keep thinking of the old Vera Lynn song:



***"We'll meet again
Don't know where, don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny
day..."***

If you would like any information about the Club please give me a ring.

Jean 01603 880422

Easton Village Hall

Sadly, Easton Village Pop-In and Community Lunch stay closed until further notice. We usually start our run of Lunches in October and from October 2019 so far we have given £709 to charity:

October	Blood Bikes, £209 <i>(we held a raffle and sale)</i>
November	YMCA, homeless young people, £100
December	EACH Children's Hospice, £100
January	Norwich Food Bank, £100
February	Norwich Accident and Rescue, £100
March	Boudica Norwich Cancer Appeal, £100

We charge 80p for a cup of coffee, 90p for a mug of coffee or tea, and biscuit. Lunches are £5 50, and we serve main course, sweet (usually six home-made to choose from), tea and coffee.

We ask for help with the jobs. There are up to 40 people every time and it is always enjoyed. We can cater for people on different diets, as long as they tell us before hand, and every one is very welcome!

Anne Dunbar

Easton Women's Institute

It doesn't seem possible that just a month ago I was hoping our April meeting could go ahead: none of us had any real idea about what the next few weeks would bring.

We may not be able to meet at the moment, but I know that members are keeping in touch with each other and staying safe in our own homes as far as we can. If any members want to contact someone for a chat or some help, please contact me (my details are on the back of your WI programme), or another committee member, and we will do whatever we can to help.

I don't know about you, but I spend a large portion of my days trying to secure a delivery slot from Sainsbury's or to get my prescriptions delivered. Add to that gardening and worrying about my family in London and my days are pretty full. The day I learned that cats might catch the virus just gave me one more thing to worry about and my cat has been self-isolating ever since. Those of you who know her will know that her lifestyle hasn't changed as she hates almost everyone and detests other cats so her social contact is very limited at the best of times!!

If you have access to Facebook or Instagram you can keep up to date with Norfolk WI: simply search 'Norfolk WI' and you will find something new most days. There are ideas about how we can help the NHS from home, and other ways to keep occupied during lockdown.

This also has made me realise that we could be in a different place if we had our own Facebook page to communicate with those members who use it. Barford WI are very active on their page: search for Barford, Wramplingham and District to see what they have been up to.

Spare a thought for our member Lucy, who works in the NHS, as does her GP husband, Simon. Lucy has just come out of self-isolation and Simon has been off work but is now back. Life for them and for all NHS workers, must be very different from the lives of most of the rest us.

I can assure you that the WI will get back to something like normal as soon as it is safe to do so but I suspect that life will never go back to being exactly how it was until we can have a safe vaccine.

Mary Blathwayt

A Special Thank You

Several weeks ago a wonderful group of volunteers got together to form a network to provide practical support for members of the community during the Coronavirus crisis.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank these generous and selfless individuals for their acts of great kindness during our recent period of illness.

*Sue, Chris, Shelley and Zoe
The Old Farmhouse.*

Tales from the River

The one thing that being in 'lockdown' is that you have time to do all the things that you have been meaning too.

It has been very quiet here by the River Yare, but the other morning when I opened the shutters in our bedroom I obviously disturbed a heron and a large white egret which were looking for the small fry in the river. We usually have the small white egret who is there first thing each day. We have had a pair of swans, but not sure whether they are the ones we see each year or another pair: we are waiting for the signets now.

Twigzy, our little black cat, and I like to sit on the garden bench under the wonderful cherry tree, which is in heavy blossom at the moment, and watch the river meandering by, me drinking my afternoon tea and Twigzy just watching everything that moves, and hoping for a little piece of my cake, which she knows she cant have. I talk to her a lot, and she replies in her way.

Sally Neale

Thanks to our contributors!

With so many events unable to go ahead, there will be space to fill in next month's Grapevine. What would you like to see included?

Please send us your ideas and contributions (and we'd love to hear from the children too)!

How about your positive thoughts around coping with isolation: poems, experiences, thoughts or ideas all welcome. Don't worry about spelling or grammar - just have a go!

The deadline for the next edition is **15th May**.

Please send your articles and suggestions to the Editor:

Clare Howard

email: clare@ragbagprojects.co.uk .

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Norfolk County Councillor	Mrs Margaret Dewsbury (as above)	
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